



SENASA

**FURTHER INFORMATION
REQUESTED BY USDA-APHIS
DURING DECEMBER 2003 VISIT TO
SUPPORT PATAGONIAN REGION
STATUS FOR FOOT AND MOUTH
DISEASE (FMD)**

2004 November

**BUREAU OF EPIDEMIOLOGY
NATIONAL BUREAU OF ANIMAL HEALTH**

Additional information with regards to Patagonia region requested by APHIS after the visit of December 1-5, 2003

1) FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE EPIDEMIOLOGICAL SURVEILLANCE

Foot and mouth disease epidemiological surveillance is mainly directed at searching for the disease. It is carried out in a passive and active way.

The attention and registry of notifications and suspicions of the disease compatible with vesicular disease are within the passive surveillance actions and are reported by producers, veterinarians, vaccinators, etc.

SENASA implements serological samplings countrywide with a minimum frequency of once per year as the main active surveillance action.

The purpose of the foot and mouth disease serological samplings carried out in Argentina is the detection of viral activity (or infection) and the estimate of population immunity given by vaccination against foot and mouth disease (in the areas where it is put into practice).

The design of these studies and the analysis of the results are carried out at the heart of the Epidemiology Advising Commission and the Virology Advising Council, which depend from the National Bureau of Animal Health of the Bureau of Epidemiology.

The serological studies performed after the foot and mouth disease epidemic that took place in the years 2000 and 2001 have been designed to estimate the infection prevalence by the foot and mouth disease virus (FMDV) in those areas where there had been disease outbreaks, and to detect the presence of infection in the areas where there had been no registries of clinical cases or its occurrence was sporadic.

In 2003, with more than a year without clinical cases, the sampling was directed to detect the presence of infection in all the regions of the country and to estimate the immune level of those areas where vaccination is practiced.

In all the cases, the country was divided into zones with different geographical, productive and epidemiological characteristics with regards to the disease historical behavior and to the vaccination implementation.

1.1. Design:

It is a sampling with two stages. An independent calculus of the number of herds from which the samples shall be taken (formula N° 1) and the necessary number of

individuals by herd to be included in the sample (formula N° 2) are made to determine the size of the sampling required to detect if an event is present in a population.

Formula N°1: Number of necessary herds (n_r)
$$n_r = \left[1 - (1 - NC)^{\frac{1}{e}} \right] \times \left(N_r - \frac{e-1}{2} \right)$$

Where

NC Level of trust (for the detection of at least one positive individual in the population)

- e Number of affected herds that can be detected as such in the population.
This value arises from multiplying the number of herds in the population to be studied (N_r) by the expected prevalence in positive herds and by the level of trust defined to determine the number of individuals by herds to be included in the sample.

N_r Number of herds in the population to be studied

Formula N°2: Number of individuals by herd to be included in the sample (n_i):

$$n_i = \left[1 - (1 - NC)^{\frac{1}{e}} \right] \times \left(N_i - \frac{e-1}{2} \right)$$

Where

NC Level of trust (for the detection of at least one positive individual by establishment)

- e Number of individuals with the event that can be detected by herd. This value arises from multiplying the number of individuals by herd (N_i) by the detectable prevalence, which is the result of the product between the expected prevalence (p) and the sensitivity (Se) of the diagnosis method ($N * p * Se$)

N_r Average of the number of individuals by herd

1.2. Serological samplings in the Patagonia Regions:

In the case of the Patagonia Regions, generally, the serological studies carried out during the last years have been part of the populations studies performed countrywide. Nevertheless, after the foot and mouth disease epidemic suffered in 2000 and 2001 additional samplings have been carried out. These studies always had the purpose of showing the absence of the disease, as it is a zone free from foot and mouth disease.

1.2.1. Samplings Year 2001:

During this year, two studies were carried out in Patagonia:

1.2.1.1. Population sampling: sampling at random of establishments with susceptible animals, according to a statistical design.

1.2.1.2. Targeted sampling: study directed to establishments into which animals from the Northern regions of the country have entered during the period when the sanitary barriers had been lifted, when the country was recognized as free from foot and mouth disease without vaccination by the OIE, in May 2000.

The sampled species included bovines and ovines.

In the case of bovines, the test used was ELISA 3ABC-EITB, and for ovines VIAA-IDGA and ELISA lph.

The collected samples and the results of these studies are detailed below.

Table N° 1: Sampled establishments, collected samples and results of the population sampling of Patagonia 2001.

REGION	SAMPLED ESTABL.	SAMPLED ANIMALS	ESTABL. with Positive Serologies	Seropositive ANIMALS
NORTH B PATAGONIA	251	5019	1	2
SOUTH PATAGONIA	256	6177	0	0
TOTAL	507	11196	1	2

Table N° 2: Sampled establishments, collected samples and results of the targeted sampling of Patagonia 2001.

PROVINCE	N° of Establishments	N° of Sampled animals	ESTAB. with Positive Serologies	Seropositive ANIMALS
CHUBUT	26	1171	0	0
NEUQUEN	32	1014	7	11
RIO NEGRO	5	559	0	0
SANTA CRUZ	6	471	0	0
TIERRA DEL FUEGO	1	87	0	0
TOTAL	70	3302	7	11

Additional studies were carried out in the establishments where animals reacting to the tests have been found. These studies included new samplings of susceptible animals, with EPF (esophagus-pharyngeal fluid) sample collection for isolation and PCR of positives. In all the cases the tests were negative, discarding the presence of infection.

Additional samples, corresponding to a jointly study with the Livestock and Farming Service of Chile (SAG), were collected from bovines and pigs in the province of Tierra del Fuego.

1.2.2. Sampling Year 2002:

The samplings carried out in the Patagonia region during 2002 were part of the population samplings at a country level.

The report of this sampling ("Serological Sampling 2002, assessment of the foot and mouth disease epidemiological situation in the Republic of Argentina"), together with the detail of the design, zoning, sample collection and results were submitted to an auditing group at the final meeting. A copy is attached to this document.

1.2.3. Sampling Year 2003.

During this year, the studies carried out in Patagonia were also part of the population samplings performed countrywide.

Only ovines were sampled in South and North B Patagonia, and bovines were sampled in North A Patagonia.

Samples collected by region are detailed below.

Table N° 3: Sampling 2003. Number of premises sampled and collected and processed samples to determine viral activity by region

Zone	Estab. Sampled	Collected Samples
Central-Mesopotamia	417	4140
Fattening	309	2847
Border	419	4287
NOA-Cuyo	348	3371
North A Patagonia	321	3161
South and North Patagonia B	486	4951
TOTAL	2300	22.757

Table N° 4 shows the results of viral activity in bovines. The test used was ELISA 3ABC-EITB.

Table N° 4: Results of viral activity in Category 1 (from 6 to 12 months of age) and Category 2 (from 12 to 24 months of age) bovines per region.

Zone	Category 1			Category 2		
	N	Positives	%	N	Positives	%
Central-Mesopotámica	2499	12	0.48	1641	20	1.22
Fattening	1711	4	0.23	1136	21	1.85
Border	2513	13	0.51	1724	10	0.58
NOA-Cuyo	2008	3	0.15	1353	15	1.11
North A Patagonia	1902	8	0.42	1259	9	0.71
Total	10633	40	0.37	7113	75	1.05

Table N° 5 shows the ovine samples collected and their results for South and North B Patagonia regions, per province. The test used for this species was ELISA lph for virus type A 2001 and O1 Campos.

Table N°5: Number of ovine premises sampled and processed samples to determine viral activity in South and North B Patagonia zone, per province and results.

ZONE	PROVINCE	ESTABL.	SERUMS	POSITIVE SERUMS
NORTH B PAT.	NEUQUEN	18	180	0
	RIO NEGRO	86	840	0
	CHUBUT	214	2235	0
SOUTH PAT.	SANTA CRUZ	140	1390	0
	T. DEL FUEGO	28	276	0
TOTAL		486	4921	0

2) MOVEMENT OF SUCEPTIBLE ANIMALS FROM NORTH B PATAGONIA TO SOUTH PATAGONIA

SENASA Resolution N° 58/01 is the standard that regulates the movement of FMD susceptible animals, their products and byproducts among the different regions of the FMD Eradication Plan. This standard was partially modified (Resolution N° 1051/02) for the case of movements of South and North B Patagonia Region following the recognition of the OIE of the first one as a Zone Free from Foot and Mouth Disease where vaccination is not practiced.

Article 2 of this standard forbids the entry of live animals of FMD susceptible species of any origin, condition or purpose to the "FMD Free Zone where vaccination is not practiced" (South Patagonia) to the "Surveillance Zone where vaccination is not practiced" (North B Patagonia). On the other hand, Article 4 authorizes the entry of animals of FMD susceptible species coming from North B Patagonia to South Patagonia.

These animals should comply with additional requirements laid down in the Annex (breeding animals registered in the pedigree registry, with quarantine and 2 serological tests negative to FMD and 2 negative Probing tests, among others).

3) INFORMATION REGARDING INFRINGEMENT TO BORDER CONTROL STANDARDS

Decree N° 643/96 is applicable to the border control standards, specially art. 8°, and, by analogy, general directives on transport contained in art. 19/21 of the same Decree, as well as Resolution N° 478/79 on illegal entry of animals, which are attached.

DECREE N° 643/96

BUENOS AIRES, June 19, 1996

ARTICLE 8°.- As from the moment this decree is in force, no FMD susceptible animal will be authorized to enter, or transit by any region of the country established by the mentioned Autakic Body, according to art. 2° of these regulatory standards, if it is not accompanied by an Official Sanitary Certificate, indicating that it has been vaccinated against the disease and that the sanitary actions have been complied with, in addition to the certifications required for entry to free zones or intended for export. Immediate confiscation and slaughter of all the animals shall be carried out on all animals entering to the National Territory without the Official Sanitary Certification issued by the competent authority of the sanitary recognized country of origin.

ARTICLE 19.- Transporters of any means of transportation, in point of fact or contractual, are responsible for the livestock transit from the moment of loading till delivery, covering transport with the above-mentioned Official Sanitary Certificate.

ARTICLE 20.- Transporters of any means of transportation, in point of fact or contractual, are responsible for the transit of products and by-products of animal origin, as well as of forage or guano that could carry the FMD virus. They shall be covered by official sanitary certifications required by the National Service, which shall be exhibited when required by the sanitary authorities.

ARTICLE 21.- The authorities from the NATIONAL SERVICE OF ANIMAL HEALTH, or people that his Service passes inspection faculties on, are authorized to retain the vehicle, if the driver denies to comply with the inspections required by SENASA or if lacking of the official sanitary documents, till a legal order is obtained.

RESOLUTION N° 478/79

BUENOS AIRES, August 23, 1979

SEEN file N° 135.608/79, by which the NATIONAL SERVICE OF ANIMAL HEALTH (SENASA) fosters the adoption of sanitary precautions at any occasion when illegal introduction of livestock of any species to the territory, infringing the sanitary standards in force for import of livestock on the hoof is verified by the technical officials, and

CONSIDERING:

That the introduction of livestock in the above-mentioned conditions could eventually cause the entry of exotic diseases for our country, so it is duty of the sanitary authorities to take the necessary preventive measures in order this does not take place.

That illegal entry of livestock would break the dispositions foreseen in Decrees N° 189, dated January 11, 1965 and N° 2216, dated July 6, 1971.

Therefore, and according to the requirements of article 12 of Law N° 3959 of the Animal Health Police

**THE AGRICULTURE AND LIVESTOCK STATE SECRETARY
STATES:**

ARTICLE 1°.- When introduction of animals on the hoof without the authorization of the competent Secretariat is verified, it shall be considered as illegal, being the official of the Sanitary Struggle Service (SELSA) authorized to confiscate the animals.

ARTICLE 2° - The livestock in this conditions shall be kept in a place established by the authority, during forty eight (48) hours in order to verify they health condition.

ARTICLE 3° - Verification of a suspicion of a critical disease for the country shall determine the immediate slaughter of the animals and the application of all the prophylactic measures considered as necessary.

ARTICLE 4° - Once the forty eight (48) hours of observation are over and if the sanitary status is acceptable, confiscation of animals and slaughter in slaughterhouses with official veterinary inspection shall be carried out, and the meat shall go to public welfare institutions.

ARTICLE 5° - The vehicles used for livestock transport shall meet the maximum safety and hygiene conditions.

ARTICLE 6° - The expenses incurred on compliance of the requirements of this resolution shall be paid by the offenders.

ARTICLE 7° - Have it notified, published, transferred to the National Official Journal Department and filed..

Fdo.: Zorreguieta - Secretary
RESOLUTION N° 478/79

4) INFORMATION ON VESICULAR DISEASES NOTIFICATION

During 2002, SENASA received 3 reports of diseases confusable with foot and mouth disease in the Patagonia Region.

Two of them were clinically discarded and registered as "Notifications". The first one took place at the department of Pichi Mahuida, province of Río Negro (North A Patagonia Region). Bovines showed traumatic lesions (cuts) in the tongue. No lesions in calves were found. The diagnosis was injuries by feeding (Pampas grasses and salted grasses).

The second one took place at the department of Bariloche, also in the province of Rpuio Negro (North B Patagonia Region). Two dead ovines were found at the establishment with no clinical signs in the rest of the population. The diagnosis determined by necropsy was Maedi Visna/Adenomatosis. The animals came from establishments that already had a history of these diseases.

The third report on the presence of animals with symptomatology compatible with vesicular disease, received in the Patagonia region, during 2002, was registered in the department of Patagones, province of Buenos Aires (North A Patagonia Region). In this case, the presence of FMD or other confusable disease could not be clinically discarded and it was necessary to collect samples to discard or confirm the diagnosis ("Suspicion of vesicular disease"). The report was made by a private veterinarian when he found oral lesions compatible with FMD in 14 bovines, from a total of 217, during an inspection of a herd before dispatch to a livestock auction. The animals did not show any other systemic signs. As from that moment the premise was interdicted. The official veterinarian in charge collected epithelium and serum samples from the affected bovines lot. The laboratory tests were negative to FMD. ELISA 3ABC and AITB were made to the sera and the epithelium sample was used to make BHK cell culture passages and in a suckling mouse, ELISA typing and PCR. Taking into account the laboratory results and follow-up of the disease at the field the presence of FMD was discarded. IBR by serology in double samples was diagnosed.

During 2003 and in the course of 2004 there have been no reports of vesicular disease in Patagonia regions.

5) LOCATION AND CAPACITY OF SLAUGHTERING PLANTS

According to Annex II of Resolution N° 58, dated May 25, 2001 of the registry of the NATIONAL AGRIFOOD HEALTH AND QUALITY SERVICE and to Joint Disposition N° 5 of the National Bureau of Animal Health and N° 18 of the National Bureau of Agrifood Inspection, SENASA will authorize the introduction of animals coming from other regions intended for immediate slaughter to the Northern A Patagonia Region under the following conditions:

- a) Notify to the destination to be authorized by the Chief of Veterinary Inspection of the slaughter plant.
- b) The animals come from establishments where there were neither FMD outbreaks during the last SIXTY (60) days nor in a radius of TWENTYFIVE (25) kilometers for the last THIRTY (30) days.
- c) Clinical inspection and official dispatch with notification to destination.

d) The animals shall be directly moved from the livestock establishment of origin to the coldstore plant approved by SENASA. This plant shall meet operative and biosecurity conditions established by SENASA.

e) The carcasses originated in these animals shall be matured during not less than TWENTY-FOUR (24) hours, at a temperature of no less than (+2°C) until they reach a pH not higher than FIVE POINT NINE (5.9) measured at the longissimus dorsi muscle.

f) The chambers for maturation of carcasses shall have instruments for continues registration of temperature (thermographs), which graphs shall be filed by the Inspection Service for ONE (1) year.

g) Meats shall be deboned (except for the cut named plate) and cartilages, lymph nodes and visible clots removed.

h) The remains of the slaughter shall be sent to a thermal treatment guaranteeing the inactivation of the FMD virus.

i) Pre-stomachs (tripe, bible, rennet), first portion of the small intestine, kidney, tongue, liver and tail shall be subjected to a thermal process, to be commercialized, guaranteeing (72°C) at the deeper part of the mass during at least THIRTY (30) minutes.

j) The heart and diaphragm shall be matured at a temperature of no less than +2°C during 4 hours.

k) Processes described in items i) and j) shall be registered and audited for ONE (1) year.

l) Hides shall be subjected to a salting process during a minimum period of FORTY-FIVE (45) days at the establishment.

m) The blood, fat and the rest of the offals and remains of the slaughter which were not described in the previous items shall be subjected to a thermal treatment guaranteeing the destruction of the FMD virus.

Slaughtered bovine establishments located al North A Patagonian Zone.

Establishment Official N°	Company	Location	Slaughter capacity
2354	FRIDEVI	VIEDMA, RIO NEGRO	200 ANIMALS PER DAY
2511	HECTOR GUTIERREZ	VILLA REGINA, RIO NEGRO	150 ANIMALS PER DAY
3922	CENTENARIO	CENTENARIO, PCIA. NEUQUEN	100 ANIMALS PER DAY
2903	COPROMANEU S.A	SEVILLOSA, PCIA. NEUQUEN	100 ANIMALS PER DAY

See Attach File Resolution 58/2001

See Attach File Joint Regulation 5/2001 and 18/2001

6) INFORMATION ABOUT WILD BOAR POPULATION AND SURVEILLANCE PROGRAMMES IN FMD SUSCEPTIBLE WILD ANIMALS

There is neither accurate information about wild boar populations nor an specific surveillance programme for wild populations of FMD susceptible animals

Currently, SENASA and authorities of Wild Fauna, dependent from the Secretariat of Environment, are working on the signing of a cooperation agreement, with the purpose of working jointly in the control and surveillance of notifiable diseases in wild animals.

Nevertheless, special serological studies in wild animals that included deer commercial farms, FMD susceptible animals and wild game preys have been carried out.

6.1 Serological Samplings in Deer Farms

In 2002, a serological sampling was carried out with the purpose of detecting the presence of FMDV infected animals in deer commercial farms in Argentina.

According to the established design, 29 samples were collected in each establishment. This gives a level of trust of 95% to detect at least one positive case if the prevalence of infected animals were 10% or higher.

The VIAA-IDGA test was used for the detection of antibodies to nonstructural proteins (NSP) of FMD virus and the ELISA test in liquid phase for the detection of antibodies to structural proteins of A 2001 and O1 Campos virus types. As the animals were not vaccinated, the positive result to any of the tests used would indicate that the animal was exposed and infected.

478 samples were collected from 15 establishments, five of them belong to the province of Neuquén and one to the province of Río Negro (North B Patagonia Region).

All of the samples were negative both to the detection of structural antibodies (ELISA in liquid phase) and to nonstructural (VIAA-IDGA) to the FMD virus.

6.2. Monitoring of wild biungulates in areas without vaccination:

In 2002, a serological survey of wild biungulates in areas without vaccination was also carried out with the purpose of verifying the role of these species in the FMD epidemiological behavior in said areas. It was performed in game preserves in Patagonia.

The aim of the sampling was to detect the presence animals infected with the FMD virus in wild susceptible species in areas without vaccination.

Among wild species susceptible to FMD, which are big game preys in the different game preserves at the Patagonia, it can be mentioned the red deer (*Cervus elaphus*), the wild boar (*Sus scrofa ferox*) and the guanaco (*Lama guanacus*)

In order to carry out the sampling of these species, bleeding of the animals was performed at the moment they were hunted. A total of 32 serum samples were collected, and they corresponded to 27 red deer captured in 9 big game preserves in the province of Neuquén (North B Patagonia) and 5 guanacos from an establishment in the province of Chubut (South Patagonia).

All the analyzed samples resulted negative to VIAA-IDGA tests for the detection of antibodies to NSP of the FMD virus and to the ELISA test in liquid phase for structural antibodies for A 2001 and O1 Campos virus types.

7) DOCUMENTS OR REQUESTED COPIES:

- **Item A:** See CD attached.

- **Item B:** In the case of an emergency there is not a specific protocol but dynamic mechanisms.

The Bureau of Animal Health, among others, determines and notifies the sanitary alerts to the border areas and indicates the recommendations regarding the actions to be implemented.

Nevertheless, the borders in risk, established by SENASA Resolution N° 1505/00, have a series of extraordinary control and preventive measures to be automatically carried out when there is a possible suspicion or sanitary alert to prevent the introduction of etiological agents of exotic diseases or high risk for the Republic of Argentina, which include, among others:

Reinforcement of the staff in control posts and border areas.

- Intensification of physical, documentary and identity controls of commercial loads of products of animal origin authorized to enter to the Republic of Argentina.
- To impose a higher restriction to the introduction of merchandises under "border neighbor transit".
- To disinfect the vehicles entering the National Territory.
- To reinforce passenger and luggage control.
- To establish control posts in roads considered as strategic with the aim of preventing the above-mentioned sanitary risks.

- Item C: REPORT OF THE VISIT TO THE PATAGONIA ZOOFITOSANITARY BARRIERS – JULY 2003

The visit took place between July 14 and 17, jointly with Agr. Eng. Cynthia Ruiz from the Plant Quarantine Directorate and accompanied by Agr. Eng. Daniel VILLALBA, Coordinator of FUNBAPA Barriers.

The visited Barrier Posts were the following:

- Neuquén Airport
- Catriel/25 de Mayo
- Casa de Piedra
- La Japonesa
- La Adela
- Km. 714

The Spraying Chamber of Bahía Blanca and the FUNBAPA offices in Gral. Roca and Viedma (Technical and Calculation area) were also visited.

The surveyed issues were the following:

1. Fruit Flies
2. SICOFHOR (Control System for Fresh Fruit and Vegetable Products)
3. Zoosanitary Barrier: documentary and conceptual features of the barrier control

General Comments on the visit

1. Fruit Flies

This visit corresponds to the inspection of barriers to be performed within the framework of the National Fruit Flies Eradication and Control Program (PROCEM), as required by SENASA Resolution N° 601/01.

A copy of the report developed jointly with Agr. Eng. Cynthia RUIZ, submitted to the Quarantine, Borders and Certifications Unit by the Plant Quarantine Directorate, which includes the visit schedule, is attached.

2. SICOFHOR

It was verified that the barrier posts are up-dated regarding communications submitted to the Coordination of Sanitary Barriers and Federal Traffic. The staff assigned to the barriers were aware of the fact that they had to verify package labels and approval code seal, rejecting loads that did not meet the standards. The staff pointed out that many transporters preferred Voluntary Confiscation than the alternative of returning to origin, specially if they are little quantities of bulks/boxes included in a bigger or "mixed" load.

The posts had the list of approved sheds so it was possible to control the data contained in the submitted documents.

It was notified, by Memorandum N°114/2003 of this Coordination, that the cases which had documents proving the beginning of the permit process and if the list was approved, the staff at the barrier should let the load go on and notify the owner, in writing, (crossing out the part designated as infringements) so as the person goes to the Local Office where the procedure was initiated to ask for the pertinent number. Regarding this issue, discrepancies in the answers were observed, varying from whom only notified orally to whom stated that the correct way was to let them go on with a warning of rejection of the next load until the situation was normalized.

I was observed that SICOFHOR control was also carried out in the Gral. Roca post.

A copy of the Verification Record, developed by this Coordination, with the data of the load owners to be verified by SICOFHOR was submitted to Agr. Eng. Daniel VILLALBA, in Viedma. The staff at the barriers agreed on the difficulty of obtaining these data.

With regards to the Bahía Blanca Spraying Chamber, the reception of Circular note N° 9/2003 of this Coordination (SICOFHOR Procedures Guide for Controls in Spraying Chamber) was verified in the Registry Book of Bromide Stocks (page 19) dated 02/06/03. Likewise, it was verified that the fruit in the chamber in heating process (see Fruit Flies Report) had the standard label.

CONCLUSION

As the control of pear and apple packing shed approvals is being carried out before the implementation of the SICOFHOR, it is important to compare it with other producer zones of the country which barriers and/or concentrating markets are in the first stage of the performance of these controls, that could be surveyed in a near future, with the purpose of having a wider outlook regarding the difficulties of implementation of the system.

Zoosanitary Barrier

The barrier staff is aware of the documentary aspects carried out during the controls in the barriers, both for livestock on the hoof and for animal products and by-products, regarding registry books, documents to be required to the transporters (PTR, DTA, SENASA approval and Washing Certificates, as appropriate) and what should be verified in these documents (seals, plate numbers, brands, certificate validity). They were particularly asked about the approval of dairy transports, which control is not mandatory, and they were aware of this situation.

With regards to the luggage of individuals, and on occasion of confiscating fresh meat to a bus passenger, the barrier staff explained the procedure carried out in the cases of packages. In another post, and after the correct confiscation of a salami, the staff could not exactly explain the reason for the confiscation.

In general, doubts, ignorance and/or mistakes in the interpretation of the procedures in certain cases, for example home-made honey or without label and bacon or similar.

CONCLUSION

The barrier staff was good to very good qualified, according to the answers related to the methodology used.

Although the staff know the standards, it is suggested to verify the level of their command so they can decide if a product/by-product can be introduced to the region, for example

when they are carried by an individual (and the pertinent explanation if they are confiscated), as well as interpretation and analysis of the documents accompanying a commercial load when mistakes or falsifications are found.

Precise comments on the visited barrier posts

DOCUMENTS AND REGISTRIES

Each post has the following registries:

- List of Staff Rotation
- Book of News
- File of Received Communications
- Folder with Resolutions
- Complaint Book

Each post develops the following documents:

- Crossing and Control Chart: Out-going products and by-products of animal origin
- Crossing and Control Chart: Introduction of products and by-products of animal origin
- Crossing and Control Chart: Out-going livestock and empty cages.
- Crossing and Control Chart: Introduction of livestock and empty cages.

In the case of particular confiscations, a numbered coupon is given to the person. There are no registries in the post and the remaining part of the coupon is submitted to FUNBAPA in Viedma (Calculation area).

INFRASTRUCTURE AND TASKS

All the visited barrier staff works for FUNBAPA, and they are well provided with working clothes.

With regards to the barrier posts in general, the hygiene conditions were very good (at the time of the visit, 25 de Mayo and La Adela were under painting works). The terrestrial barrier posts had traffic cones, lights for night inspections and signs (in every post), as well as automatic disinfectants and stalls (in most of the posts).

All the posts had adequate containers for confiscations and pits (further away from the posts) where all the confiscated residues are burnt (usually one for plants and another one for meat products). Some remains of confiscated material which had not been destroyed could be observed in containers or pits. The answer to this situation was lack of time, due to the amount of work, need to sample the confiscated fruit, inconvenience of carrying a cutter or penknife or lack of this element.

All the posts coincided in the high level of support of the security forces located in the barrier. Most of them had rural police stations that could eventually be a support.

- **Neuquén Airport**

The report developed for Fruit Flies is explicit with regards to the activity observed.

On-duty staff questioned: Gustavo PIERANTONI (Post Chief), Patricia BEREZOSKY and Walter ESPARZA.

Barrier infrastructure: Very Good.

Transit flow: 8 flights/day

As an extra comment, there was a notification on the high number of Notification Records developed in the airport, mostly by lack of DTA for chickens.

- **25 de Mayo**

On-duty staff questioned: Agr. Eng. Gustavo BERDUGO (Chief of Area) and Carlos PADILLA (Post Chief)

Alternative roads: Yes (in bad condition for trucks)

- **Casa de Piedra**

On-duty staff questioned: Claudio NITTINGER (Post Chief)

Alternative roads: No

Barrier infrastructure: Good (lack of stall)

Transit flow: 150 vehicles/day (30 trucks and 35 buses)

This post will be closed for 3 months due to running repairs in the Casa de Piedra dam.

- **La Japonesa**

On-duty staff questioned: Carlos SILVEIRA (Post Chief) and Aníbal NÚÑEZ

Alternative roads: No

Barrier infrastructure: Regular (manual disinfection and absence of stall, as well as restriction in the working area, carrying out the tasks on the road, except for those which imply working on the truck loads)

Transit flow: 20 vehicles/day (5-10 trucks per week)

- **Km. 714**

On-duty staff questioned: Agr. Eng. Dario PRATDESSUS (Post Chief), Angel SALERNO, Marcelo POMENZIO and Rubén PACCETI.

Alternative roads: Yes

Barrier infrastructure: Very Good (it also has a fruit grinding for particular confiscations)

INSPECTION VISIT TO THE CENTER OF QUARANTINE TREATMENT APPLICATIONS BAHIA BLANCA SPRAYING

COMMENTS

An inspection to this center was carried out. It has three chambers, one of them was in fruit heating process and the other two with treatment in process as the visit took place.

The following equipment was observed during the visit: Gas Analyzer (Fumiscopio), Scale, Manometer, Haluro's lamp, and Heating System, as well as the required clothes to carry out the tasks (gas mask, gloves).

Manual temperature of the fruit in heating process was measured in order to verify the temperature registered in the software, and the work of Agr. Eng. Fabián Ruarte (SUFP (Unique System of Permanent Supervision) Inspector - San Juan).

Absence of a SUFP News Book was observed and when Agr. Eng. Ruarte was asked about it, he mentioned that he does not remember the existence of it in the center.

It was observed, in the Chamber News Book, that the last time sensors were put back to zero was on September 23, 2002, although, when the repinchado was performed, there were no differences between these sensors and the manual thermometer. The last inspection carried out by the Coordinator of the Unique System of Permanent Supervision was on April 25, 2002.

CONCLUSIONS

- Placement of a sign for public users describing the treatments that can be carried out in this center and for what kind of products is recommended.
- Put back to zero of thermometers in the chambers is recommended to be carried out more frequently, and if it is being carried out, it is recommended to write it down in the News Book.
- Availability of a News Book for SUFP Inspectors is suggested.

- **Item D:** report on why are only bovines systematically vaccinated against FMD in Argentina. A copy of the document developed by request of the DG-SANCO 3413/2001 mission "The role of ovines in FMD epidemiology in Argentina. Strategies for vaccination of species" is attached.

- See Annex DG SANCO 3413/2001.